Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of the Claims:

1.   (Currently amended) A method comprising:

identifying an implicitly defined semantic structure in a document, where a plurality of rules are associated with the implicitly defined semantic structure, and where the semantic structure includes a list having a header and a plurality of items associated with the header;

determining a location of a first term and a location of a second term within the list implicitly defined semantic structure;

selecting one of the plurality of rules based on a relationship of the locations of the first and second terms within the implicitly defined semantic structure[[;]],

where a first rule of the plurality of rules is selected when the first term is located in one of the plurality of items and the second term is located in a different one of the plurality of items,

where a second rule of the plurality of rules, different than the first rule, is selected when the first term is located in one of the plurality of items and the second term is located in the same one of the plurality of items, and

where a third rule of the plurality of rules, different than the first rule and the second rule, is selected when the first term is located in the header and the second term is located in one of the plurality of items;

determining a distance value between the first and second terms using the selected rule; and

outputting the distance value to rank the document for relevancy to a search query that includes the first term and the second term.

2. (Previously presented) The method of claim 1, the document being an HTML (Hyper-Text Markup Language) document.

3. (Currently amended) The method of claim 2, wherein the ~~implicitly defined semantic structure includes a~~ list is created with HTML tags.

4. (Original) The method of claim 3, wherein the HTML tags include paragraph tags, new line tags, bold tags, or table tags.

5. (Original) The method of claim 1, further comprising:

locating explicitly defined semantic structures.

6. (Canceled)

7. (Previously presented) The method of claim 1, the distance value being calculated as a word count between the first and second terms in the document augmented by ones of the rules related to the implicitly defined semantic structure.

8.   (Previously presented) The method of claim 1, wherein identifying the implicitly defined semantic structure includes:

identifying repeating occurrences of a set of two or more text formatting commands.

9.   (Canceled)

10.   (Currently amended) A device comprising:

means for identifying an implicitly defined semantic structure associated with terms in a document, where a number of rules are associated with the implicitly defined semantic structure, and where the semantic structure includes a list including a header and a plurality of items associated with the header;

means for determining a location relationship ~~that exists~~ between a pair of the terms within the list ~~implicitly defined semantic structure~~;

means for determining which one of the number of rules corresponds to the location relationship;

where a first rule of the number of rules is determined to correspond to the location relationship when the first term is located in one of the plurality of items and the second term is located in a different one of the plurality of items;

where a second rule of the number of rules, different than the first rule, is determined to correspond to the location relationship when the first term is located in one of the plurality of items and the second term is located in the same one of the plurality of items; and

where a third rule of the number of rules, different than the first rule and the second rule, is determined to correspond to the location relationship when the first term is located in the header and the second term is located in one of the plurality of items;

means for determining a distance value between the pair of terms based on the one rule;

means for generating a ranking score for the document based on the distance value; and

means for outputting the ranking score.

11.   (Canceled)

12.   (Currently amended) A method comprising:

identifying ~~an implicitly defined~~ a semantic structure associated with terms in a plurality of documents, where a number of rules are associated with the ~~implicitly defined~~ semantic structure, and where the semantic structure includes a list including a header and a plurality of items associated with the header;

locating a first term and a second term occurring within the list ~~implicitly defined~~ ~~semantic structure~~;

selecting, based on a relationship of the locations of the first and second terms, at least one of the number of rules to be used in determining a distance value between the first and second terms;

where a first rule of the number of rules is selected when the first term is located in one of the plurality of items and the second term is located in a different one of the plurality of items,

where a second rule of the number of rules, different than the first rule, is selected when the first term is located in one of the plurality of items and the second term is located in the same one of the plurality of items, and

where a third rule of the number of rules, different than the first rule and the second rule, is selected when the first term is located in the header and the second term is located in one of the plurality of items;

determining, using the at least one rule, the distance value between the first and second terms within the ~~implicitly defined~~ semantic structure when the first and second terms occur in a search query;

ranking the documents for relevancy to the search query based on the determined distance value; and

outputting the rankings of the documents in response to the search query.

13.   (Canceled)

14.   (Currently amended) The method of claim [[13]]12, wherein the ~~list~~ semantic structure is implicitly defined.

15.   (Canceled)

16.   (Canceled)

17.   (Currently amended) The method of claim 12, wherein the ~~implicitly defined~~ semantic structure is identified prior to the ranking.

18.   (Original) The method of claim 12, wherein the documents are HTML (Hyper-Text Markup Language) documents.

19.   (Currently amended) The method of claim 18, wherein the ~~implicitly defined~~ semantic structure includes lists created with HTML tags.

20.   (Original) The method of claim 19, wherein the HTML tags include paragraph tags, new line tags, bold tags, or table tags.

21.   (Canceled)

22.   (Currently amended) A device comprising:

a memory; and

a processor coupled to the memory to:

       identify a semantic structure associated with ~~terms~~ <u>a first term and a second term</u> occurring in a document, where a plurality of rules are associated with the semantic structure<u>, and where the semantic structure includes a list having a header and a plurality of items associated with the header</u>;

       determine ~~various~~ <u>a semantically based</u> distance <u>relationship</u> ~~relationships that exist~~ between the ~~terms~~ <u>first term and the second term</u> in the identified semantic structure;

select one of the plurality of rules that corresponds to each of the distance

relationships;

<u>where the processor is configured to select a first rule of the</u>
<u>plurality of rules when the first term is located in one of the plurality of items and the</u>
<u>second term is located in a different one of the plurality of items,</u>

<u>where the processor is configured to select a second rule of the</u>
<u>plurality of rules, different than the first rule, when the first term is located in one of the</u>
<u>plurality of items and the second term is located in the same one of the plurality of items,</u>
<u>and</u>

<u>where the processor is configured to select a third rule of the</u>
<u>plurality of rules, different than the first rule and the second rule, when the first term is</u>
<u>located in the header and the second term is located in one of the plurality of items;</u>

determine, using the selected rule, <u>the</u> semantically based distance <u>value</u>
~~values~~ between ~~those of the terms~~ <u>the first term and the second term, where the first term</u>
<u>and the second term</u> ~~that~~ occur in a search query;

rank the document for relevancy to the search query based on the

semantically based distance <u>value</u> ~~values~~; and

provide at least some of the ranks in response to the search query.

23.   (Currently amended) The device of claim 22, the processor being further

configured to:

locate implicitly defined semantic structures in the document; and

use the implicitly defined semantic structures in determining the semantically

based distance value ~~values~~.

24. (Previously presented) The device of claim 22, the processor being further

configured to:

receive the search query.

25. (Currently amended) A method comprising:

receiving a search query;

identifying an implicitly defined semantic structure associated with terms in

documents, where a plurality of rules are associated with the implicitly defined semantic

structure, and where the semantic structure includes a list having a header and a plurality

of items associated with the header;

determining a semantic based distance between a first term and a second term

within the list ~~implicitly defined semantic structure~~;

selecting one of the plurality of rules based on the semantic based distance

between the first and second terms within the implicitly defined semantic structure;

where a first rule of the plurality of rules is selected when the first term is

located in one of the plurality of items and the second term is located in a different one of

the plurality of items,

where a second rule of the plurality of rules, different than the first rule, is

selected when the first term is located in one of the plurality of items and the second term

is located in the same one of the plurality of items, and

where a third rule of the plurality of rules, different than the first rule and the second rule, is selected when the first term is located in the header and the second term is located in one of the plurality of items;

determining, using the selected rule, a distance value for the first and second terms;

ranking the documents for relevancy to the search query based on the distance value; and

presenting the documents in an order influenced by the ranking.

26.   (Original) The method of claim 25, wherein the documents are HTML (Hyper-Text Markup Language) documents.

27.   (Previously presented) The method of claim 26, the implicitly defined semantic structure including a list created with HTML tags.

28.   (Original) The method of claim 25, further comprising:

locating explicitly defined semantic structures.